

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2013

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Burfoot Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Ms. Williams and Mr. Winn. Mr. Protogyrou and Mr. Riddick were absent.

He thereupon invited the manager to review the evening's agenda. That being done he called for the first item of business.

A. E3 – ELEVATE EARLY EDUCATION

Ms. Morris introduced the leadership of Elevate Early Education; Gary McCollum, Lisa Howard and Tommy Johnson.

Mr. McCollum briefed Council on the Early Education Demonstration Project located in the Park Place Neighborhood. He stated that E3 is putting together a plan that will bridge early education with workforce development. He noted that each year approximately 10,000 students in Virginia drop out of school and ultimately the citizenry pay for this. With the implementation of early education, by the time a child enters kindergarten, they will be prepared and ready for success when they enter higher education institutions and when they eventually enter the job market.

E3 also looks at how our dollars are being spent and the state spends approximately \$254 million on early education. They ask: Are we spending the dollars in the right places; are we spending it at the right time? Are we assuring accountability for those dollars? Are we getting the results that we need? We want to identify the problems and put a comprehensive assessment tool in place so that we know how our children are faring when they enter kindergarten. And if programs are identified that are not working then the decision is made to shut those programs down. That is basically the work of E3.

B. COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Winn referenced correspondence concerning the playground in Monticello Village. Citizens complained that older youth are dominating the basketball court and intimidating younger children as well as elderly citizens. He asked if the basketball equipment can be removed.
2. Vice Mayor Burfoot asked: **a)** for an update on the public art project for the Kroc Center. He added that the truck traffic at the Salvation Army needs to be addressed along with signage issues and **b)** if there is a way to achieve more parking for Second Calvary Baptist Church using a portion of Corprew Avenue.
3. Councilman Smigiel asked: **a)** the Administration to address e-mails concerning Northside Park's parking lot. He stated that citizens complained that people are working on cars and playing very loud music and **b)** with regard to the Animal Advisory Board's recommendations, he asked for a further response on what the NRHA is doing to enforce the neutering and spaying of tenants' pets and for a presentation concerning maintenance issues at the Midtown Tunnel.
4. Councilwoman Whibley asked for an update on the public art funds.
5. With respect to Docket item R-42, Councilwoman Whibley asked for regular updates on the city's after school program at Lafayette-Winona Middle School.

C. PPEA UPDATE

Mr. Ron Williams, Assistant City Manager, reported that they have received three solicited proposals to the RFP and one unsolicited proposal from Ballard Construction. The RFP asked for the whole package that included four schools plus Camp Allen. It also asked to comment on the feasibility of adaptive reuse and renovation and whether they could give pricing for just one school. The proposals will be reviewed over the next couple of weeks to determine if they can move forward with Campostella separately, which is the first order of business to make sure we remain on schedule for the Campostella project. After an analysis of those proposals they will report back to Council in briefings on December 10th and 17th. The review team will consist of a combination of city and school system executive staff.

They will also have the assistance of the consulting firm that is helping us through the process. Mr. Williams noted that they've also received responses for the renovation of vacant school sites. With all the proposals coming in, it will take more time to evaluate and analyze them to make sure they are feasible and from qualified proposers. Once they have done that they recommend also receiving public input.

D. CLOSED SESSION

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause(s) 1 and 3** of subsection **(A)** of **Section 2.2-3711** of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended:

- (1) Discussion of candidates for appointment to city boards, commissions and authorities.
- (3) Discussion of publicly held property in the 2600 Block of Monticello Avenue, 1017 Wilson Road in Campostella, 930 E. Virginia Beach Boulevard, 887 and 893 Princess Anne Road and 1045 South Main Street in Berkley.

Yes: Burfoot, Smigiel, Whibley, Williams, Winn and Frain.

No: None.

E. TREE DONATION

Darrell Crittendon, Director of RPOS and City Forester Michael Nentwich reported:

- \$20,000 donation is from Hampton Roads Community Foundation to help increase tree canopy.
- Goal for tree canopy is 40%; presently at 33%; to reach 40% will require planting 113,000 more trees.
- Funds from the donation will be used for trees to be planted along Hampton Boulevard.

F. ORANGE AVENUE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

John Keifer, Director of Public Works, reported:

- This is a \$1.2 million project requested by the community and City's Ocean View Civic League.
- It will include drainage, sidewalk and curb improvements.
- The project requires numerous easements with a total cost of \$4,647.

G. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ron Williams, Assistant City Manager, reported on the legislative package as relates to the Charter change, which includes changes to City Council meetings, the appointment of a Deputy Police Chief, and a change to the terms for school board members. Should there not be a consensus for the school board term change then that piece could be removed from the package and the other items could go forward. It was noted that Council had received 19 comments from the citizenry. Mayor Fraim commented briefly on a compromise for three-year terms.